

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A cover body covering an air bag apparatus, the cover body being integral with an interior panel of a vehicle, the cover body comprising:

a covering portion which is formed integrally with an interior panel body, the covering portion having a door portion defined by a tear seam formed in a closed-loop shape in a back surface of the interior panel body, the covering portion being made of polyolefin resin which has a flexural elastic modulus of from 1500 to 3500 MPa, a tensile strength of from 17 to 40 MPa, an Izod impact strength of from 3.0 to 15.0 kJ/m², and an elongation of 400% or less; and

a backing portion which is joined to a back of the covering portion including the door portion, the backing portion being made of thermoplastic olefin which is softer on the basis of a measurement of flexural elastic modulus and has a greater elongation than the polyolefin resin;

wherein the backing portion comprises a reinforcing portion joined to a back surface of the door portion, a surrounding base which is joined to the back surface of the covering portion surrounding the door portion and having an attachment portion, and a hinge portion having an end joined to the reinforcing portion and another end joined to the surrounding base.

2. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hinge portion comprises

a first flat portion adjacent to the surrounding base, and

a second flat portion adjacent to the reinforcing portion, so that the hinge portion is formed in a bent shape in cross section.

3. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a joining rib disposed on the backing portion, the joining rib arranged on a surface facing the back surface of the covering portion and joined to the covering portion by vibration welding, the joining rib comprising a first rib portion arranged in a first direction along reciprocative movement of

welding, and a second rib portion arranged in a second direction which intersects the first direction,

wherein at least a portion of the first rib portion having a width equal to or not greater than three times the width of the second rib portion.

4. (original): The cover body as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hinge portion is arranged intermittently along an edge portion defined by the reinforcing portion and the surrounding base so that the edge portion has a pair of intermittent edge portions defined by a reinforcing edge portion and a surrounding edge portion,

an extended supporting portion being formed at least from one of the reinforcing edge portion and the surrounding edge portion of the intermittent edge portions to the other of the intermittent edge portions.

5. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 1, the cover body further comprising a joining portion which tearably links the reinforcing portion and the surrounding base.

6. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hinge portion is joined to an edge portion of the surrounding base at a location away from the back surface of the covering portion, so that the edge portion of the surrounding base forms a space between the back surface of the covering portion and the hinge portion.

7. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 5, wherein the hinge portion is a curved shape which links the reinforcing portion and the surrounding base, and the joining portion links the reinforcement portion with a shorter length than a circumferential length of the hinge portion.

8. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first rib portion is disposed along at least a portion of the tear seam, the joining rib further comprising a third rib portion disposed along a predetermined direction and having a width the same as that of the second rib portion, the joining rib being formed in high density in proximity to the tear seam.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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9. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 3, wherein the joining rib has a surface area in a range of from 10 to 30 percent of the area of a surface facing the cover body defined by the reinforcing portion and the surrounding base of the backing portion.

10. (currently amended): The cover body as claimed in claim 4, wherein a center of the hinge portion and a center of the tear seam are formed with a relative off-center alignment in the a surface direction.

11. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 7, wherein the hinge portion comprises a curved surface portion which faces in a direction opposite to a direction of expansion of an air bag contained in the air bag apparatus, and the joining portion is a straight shape.

12. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hinge portion comprises a U-shaped portion having two ends and a curved surface portion defined therebetween, wherein one end is linked to the reinforcing portion and another end is linked to the surrounding base and a curved surface protrudes toward an air bag stored within the air bag apparatus, and a lower joint portion is arranged in the backing portion so that the lower joint portion substantially superposes the tear seam of the covering portion.

13. (withdrawn): The cover body as claimed in claim 12, wherein the surrounding base comprises a guide portion facing the space portion to guide an edge portion of the door portion which is formed by tearing of the tear seam.